**Improving the quality of counselling services for children**

1970. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to regulate and improve the quality of counselling services for children, which are speedily mushrooming haphazardly;

(b) if so, the standards proposed to ensure uniformity in their methodologies, employment of qualified and trained professional counsellors and whether a control mechanism would be established to monitor activities of counselling units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Government has initiated the process of upgrading and professionalising counselling services for children in need to care and protection through training programmes of conducted by the National Institute of Social Defence. These training programmes are being conducted for functionaries working with children in both Government and Non-Government run institutions. However, no formal regulatory or control mechanism has been planned in this area.

**Atrocities on SCs/STs in Rajasthan**

1971. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atrocities on SCs/STs are on the increase in the country particularly in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any case is pending against the decision of the village Panchayat of Chakwada village for imposing a fine of Rs. 51,000 on the entire dalit community of the village for a dalit youth taking bath in public ghat on 14th December, 2001; and

(d) if so, the present status of the case and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.